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Attorney Docket No. LOHSE-1



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Kurt H. Lohse)	
Serial No.:	09/482,830)	Group: 2162
Filed:	January 11, 2000)	Examiner: Lastra, Daniel
For:	METHOD FOR PROVIDING DISCOUNT INCENTIVES TO POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS WHO WISH TO MAKE AN IMMEDIATE PURCHASE)	

AMENDMENT

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GROUP 3600

BOX NON-FEE AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 22, 2002, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please Cancel Claims 2 and 9, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

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1.(Amended) A method for providing discount incentives to potential customers for making purchases from service or goods providers; the method comprising the steps of:
providing an internet website for providers [to register and] to set their respective discount parameters for issuing discount coupons to potential customers;
permitting access to said website by said potential customers to [register and search for registered] **select** providers from whom they wish to make purchases;
establishing customer [purchasing parameters] **intended spending amount and period of time** for a selected provider and indicating [a match between] **the corresponding** discount parameters [and purchasing parameters] **for the selected provider**; and
presenting a website display of a **customer** discount coupon corresponding to said [matching] **discount** parameters for printout by a [registered] customer for subsequent redemption at a provider's place of business.

6.(Amended) The method recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of displaying a search page at said website for permitting a [postponed] **potential** customer to search for a provider based upon selected criteria.

8.(Amended) A method of issuing electronically-generated merchant-specific discount coupons to consumers over an internet communications link; the method comprising the steps of:
establishing an internet website on said link, said website having a selected address;

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providing at least one website page for merchants [to register and] to set their respective discount parameters for said discount coupons;

providing at least one website page for consumers to [register and search for registered] **select one of said** merchants [based upon selected search criteria];

providing at least one website page for consumers to indicate their desired [purchase parameters] spending amount;

[comparing] **determining the** discount parameters of a merchant [with purchase parameters of] **based upon the spending amount selected by** a consumer [and indicating when a match of discount parameters and purchase parameters occurs];

presenting a website page having an electronic discount coupon representing the [matching] **discount** parameters for [a particular] **the selected** merchant; and

permitting a consumer to print the presented page for subsequent redemption of [the] **said** discount coupon [represented at said presented website page] **at the selected merchant.**

13.(Amended) The method recited in claim 8 further comprising the step of displaying a search page at said website for permitting a [postponed] **potential** consumer to search for a merchant based upon selected criteria.